

- Alberta's **employment** rose by 14,700 in May 2010. As a result, the unemployment rate fell 0.8 percentage points to 6.6% in May. Nationally, employment increased by 24,700 while the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 8.1%.
- NEW!** • In April, **average weekly earnings** in Alberta were \$989.93 (seasonally adjusted), a decrease of 0.3% from March, but 5.7% higher than April 2009. Nationwide, average weekly earnings were \$845.25 (seasonally adjusted), up 3.4% from a year earlier.
- NEW!** • Alberta's year-over-year **inflation rate** was 1.1% in May, down from the 1.6% rate in April. Nationally, the inflation rate decreased to 1.4%. The Bank of Canada's core CPI measure edged down slightly to 1.8% in May.
- As of January 1, 2010, Alberta's **population** was estimated at 3,711,845, representing an annual growth of 1.87% in 2009. Although Alberta's population growth rate in 2009 was the lowest in five years, it was still 55% more than the national average of 1.2%.
- In the fourth quarter of 2009, Alberta had a net **interprovincial migration** loss of 2,780 people. This was the province's highest quarterly loss since 1988. The two largest destinations for migrants from Alberta were British Columbia and Ontario.
- NEW!** • Alberta **retail sales** were down 1.8% (seasonally adjusted) in April from March but were 5.8% above April 2009 levels. Nationally, retail sales fell 2.0% month-over-month.
- In May, **housing starts** in Alberta decreased by 22.9% from the previous month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 27,300 units. Nationally, housing starts decreased by 6.3% from April.
- **New house prices** in Alberta rose 0.3% in April, following a 0.1% increase in the previous month. Compared to a year ago, new house prices in Alberta were 1.0% higher. Nationally, new house prices were 2.5% higher than a year ago.
- The value of **building permits** in Alberta rose 11.3% month-over-month to just over \$1.1 billion (seasonally adjusted) in April, as both residential permits (6.9%) and non-residential permits (17.8%) were up.
- The **average number of rigs** drilling in Alberta fell slightly to 56 in May (preliminary data) which appears to be a seasonal slowdown in the spring. However, compared to a year ago, drilling activity was up 76.4%.

	2010-11 Budget	2009-10 Actual	2010-11 YTD
Oil (WTI, US\$/barrel)	\$78.75	\$70.71	\$78.11
Natural Gas (ARP, \$C/GJ)	\$4.25	\$3.58	\$3.32